

DEMOCRATIC DISTRICT CONVENTION.

In pursuance of previous notice, a Convention of the Democracy of the first Congressional District of North Carolina was held at Gatesville, on Monday, the 21st inst. JOSEPH T. GRANBERY, Esq., called the Convention to order, and nominated WILLIAM STALLINGS, Esq., of Gates, as President, and W. A. FERGUSON, of Windsor, and E. HARRILL, of Gates, as Secretaries. These nominations were unanimously confirmed by the Convention.

The President requested L. D. STARKER, Esq., to explain the object of the Convention; and this was done by the selection of a suitable candidate to represent the District in the next Congress of the United States, and to take such action with reference to the approaching election as might be deemed proper.

It was then moved and carried, that all Democrats present be invited to take seats in the Convention, and participate in its deliberations.

The following delegates were in attendance from the several counties named: CURRITUCK—John M. Tuttle, Enoch F. Baxter, and John Halstead.

CAMDEN—William D. Pritchard.

PASQUOTANK—W. F. Martin, D. Starke, M. S. Sawyer, Dr. J. H. Williams, Jr., W. C. Hunter, A. H. Brown, Charles Davis, A. L. Poudioton, and John Kenyan.

PERQUIMANS—J. T. Granbery, J. C. Skinner, Josiah Perry, Joseph S. Fleetwood, George B. Fleetwood, Solomon Eason, E. W. Ridick, Joshua White, M. O. Jordan, W. D. Bledsoe, Christine Bagley, Jan. a. Cochrane, John Felton.

CRAWFORD—John H. Leary, J. G. Godfrey, S. A. Righton, E. G. Leary, John C. Badham, John Fleetwood, J. G. Small, Richard Small, Richard Simpson, Alex. Chesire, Dr. R. Dillard, C. R. Brinkley, Thos. Gregory, and C. Sawyer.

GATES—W. Stallings, John Wiley, R. Gatling, R. H. Ballard, D. Parker, Dr. Joseph Parker, Benj. E. Eppard, Gordon R. Hinton, Asa Hill, Lem'l' Bidlock, Jr., W. F. Ridick, Wm. Hudgins, John Powell, W. H. Goodman, D. F. Felton, Isaac Williams, Wm. Baker, Jno. Williams, James Woodward, Rich'd Cooper.

HAZLEWOOD—James H. Parker.

BERTIE—J. H. White, J. L. Britton, C. J. Moore, and W. F. Ferguson.

MARTIN—W. B. Lanier.

Dr. R. DILLARD then moved that a committee of five from each county be named, to report business for the action of the Convention, and to present the name of a suitable candidate for Congress. The motion prevailed; and the selection of a committee was left to the several delegations, when the following gentlemen were named: W. B. LANIER, from Martin; H. H. WHITE, from Bertie; JAMES H. PARKER, from Hertford; W. F. FERGUSON, from Gates; JOHN H. LEARY, from Camden; J. T. GRANBERY, from Perquimans; L. D. STARKER, from Pasquotank; W. D. BLEDSE, from Camden; and JOHN M. TUTTLE, from Currituck.

During the retirement of the committee for consultation, able and eloquent addresses were delivered by W. F. MARTIN, W. C. HUNTER, and J. P. JORDAN, Esqs., all of whose speeches were listened to with profound attention and received with marked enthusiasm.

After which the committee submitted through their Chairman, J. T. GRANBERY, Esq., the following preamble and resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The time has again arrived for the Democracy of this Congressional District to nominate to represent them in the next Congress of the United States;

1st. Resolved, That after two years we have again assembled as Delegates of the Democratic Party, to re-assert and endorse the principles of the party as handed down to us from the Sages and Patriots of the past, and to re-affirm our allegiance to the Constitution, as the only safeguard of our national existence against the dangerous plottings of misguided fanatics.

2d. Resolved, That we are emphatically opposed to all oath-bound secret political organizations, as implying an unwarrantable distrust of the masses, and as tending to the overthrow of our political system of government.

3d. Resolved, That the efforts now being made in the non-slaveholding States to repeal the Nebraska-Kansas bill and re-assert the Missouri restriction, and also to repeal the Fugitive Slave Law, are in direct opposition to the spirit of the Constitution, a violation of the rights of the South, and are regarded as factious and treasonable.

4th. Resolved, That we regard with pride the name of Chief Magistrate, FRANKLIN PIERCE, in all the leading measures his administration, and offer to him and his Cabinet the hearty approval of their labors.

5th. Resolved, That the Hon. H. M. SRAW, the late representative in Congress from this Congressional District, has justly merited the highest approval of a grateful constituency for his unflinching adherence to Southern rights and his zealous advocacy of all measures involving our national welfare.

6th. Resolved, That in the ability and devotion to the interests of his constituents displayed by our late Representative in Congress, the Hon. H. M. SRAW, we have a gratifying augury of a bright career of future usefulness, and that we proclaim him as our first, last, and only choice for re-election to a position in which he has reflected honor upon himself and his constituents.

On motion a committee of three—consisting of J. T. GRANBERY, Dr. R. DILLARD and W. C. HUNTER—was appointed to inform Dr. SRAW of his nomination, and request his acceptance thereof.

Moved and carried, that a vigilance committee of two for each county be appointed, to co-operate in advancing the common cause. The following are the appointees:

CURRITUCK—M. B. Baxter, John M. Tuttle, CAMDEN—W. F. Martin, D. Starke, M. S. Sawyer, PASQUOTANK—E. M. Stanton, W. C. Hunter, PERQUIMANS—J. T. Granbery, J. P. Jordan, CRAWFORD—Dr. R. Dillard, J. C. Badham, GATES—E. R. Harrell, W. H. Manning, HERTFORD—John Vann, and Col. U. Vaughan, MARTIN—W. B. Lanier, and McG. M. Stanton, HAZLEWOOD—M. W. Smallwood and Dr. W. S. Cleveland.

HALIFAX—Wm. Hill and C. N. Webb.

BERTIE—Romulus Knight and W. B. Etheridge, WASHINGTON—Joseph Norcum and A. L. Chesson, BERTIE—James Burden and Jno. White.

L. D. STARKER, Esq. being called upon to address the Convention, responded with earnestness and vigor.

On motion the thanks of the Convention were tendered to its officers for the efficient manner in which they respectively discharged their duties.

It was then ordered that the proceedings of the Convention be published in the Democratic Pioneer, and Raleigh Standard, a copy to be sent to each of the following counties: Currituck, Camden, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Gates, Hertford, Martin, Hazlewood, Bertie, and Washington.

W. A. FERGUSON, } Secretary, E. R. HARRILL, }

DEMOCRATIC MEETING IN BEAUFORT.

A meeting was held in the town of Washington, on the evening of the 22d inst., for the purpose of recommending that a District Convention be held, and to appoint Delegates thereto, for choosing a Candidate to represent this District in Congress. The meeting was organized by appointing M. Shaw, Esq., Chairman, and H. G. Hilton, Esq., Secretary.

On motion, the chairman appointed a committee of seven to draft resolutions, namely, Sylvester T. Brown, James Long, Dr. Jesse G. Bryan, John R. Carter, James Satchwell, Seth K. Gordon, and Benjamin F. Harding, who, after retiring a few minutes, reported, through Mr. Brown, the following:

Whereas, it is the inestimable prerogative, and, we believe, the sacred duty of freemen, to express freely, boldly, and unflinchingly, their opinions on all questions of public concern, and to require of all

candidates for public office a like open and manly avowal of their sentiments, therefore;

1st. Resolved, That the Democrats of this county are neither ashamed nor afraid to proclaim that they cherish the principles and sustain the organization of the great national Democratic party of the United States, which has carried us gloriously through wars, trampled down an aristocratic national bank, and established free trade; which has uniformly yielded to every class and section of our country its just constitutional rights, and fanatically assailed none, and which alone can preserve the Union founded by our fathers and consecrated to us as well by our affections.

2d. That we distrust all political associations whose aim, object, principles, and means of operating are secret, and believe them to be contrary to the genius of our republican government, tending to corrupt public morals and certain to end in the ruin of popular rights and freedom.

3d. That we adhere to the principles of religious toleration which our fathers taught and practiced. We are opposed to all unions of church and state, of religion and politics, and will prescribe no honest and true man for the country in which he may have been born, or the creed under which he worships.

4th. That we fully approve the course of Thomas Ruffin, our representative in Congress, and return him our thanks for his fidelity to our interests and his manly zeal for the Constitution.

5th. As it now seems generally agreed by the Democrats of the several counties constituting this Congressional District, that a convention for nominating a Democratic candidate for Congress is advisable;

Resolved, That we do recommend that a convention be held for that purpose, at the town of Swerve, on the first Thursday of June, and to deliberate on the course which Thomas Ruffin may be nominated by that convention.

6th. That the chairman is authorized to appoint as delegates to said convention two from each county, one from the county, and twelve for this town. The resolutions were unanimously adopted and the following persons appointed:—

Tranter's Creek—Dempsy H. Latham and Henry Hodges.

The Washington—Col. Wm. L. Kennedy, A. C. Latham, John Jordan, James Long, Dr. Wm. T. Bryan, John B. Ross, James W. Satchwell, Seth K. Gordon, S. T. Brown, Benjamin M. Selby, Jun., Major John R. Carner and Matthew Shaw.

Head of Pungo—Wm. Allen and J. E. Allen, Leachville—Burwell Reddick and Wm. Clark, Lower Broad Creek—W. B. Windley and P. H. Johnston.

North Creek—James Pairtree and Geo. Barrow, Bath—Geo. N. Oden and Bazil Hodges, Beaver Dam—Caswell Oden and Arnet Walters, Long Acem—Marshall Congleton and Hardy Aligood.

Chocowinity—Benj. F. Harding and Sydney Archbell.

Tranter's Creek—Jas. F. Clark and Wm. J. Adams, Durham's Creek—John B. Bonner and Charles W. Crawford.

South Creek—Andrew Buchanan and Thos. W. Daniels.

Goose Creek—Zion Flowers and Benj. Campaign.

In answer to calls made upon them, the Hon. Asa Hill, Briggs and Geo. Stevenson, Esqs., who had been invited to attend their respective meetings, were present, and on the subjects contained in the first three resolutions, with a force and effect that called forth the approbation and plaudits of all.

It was ordered that the proceedings be published in the Goldsborough Tribune, Raleigh Standard and New-Berne Journal, and the meeting adjourned.

H. G. HILTON, Secretary, Washington, 22d May, 1855.

A NOBLE AND TRUE HEARTED IRISHMAN.

The name of William C. Bennett, the naval engineer who was met by Lieutenant Strain on the Isthmus of Darien, should be widely published and universally cherished by all who respect the highest qualities of generosity and humanity. Mr. Bennett has, in several numbers of Harper's Magazine, given the reading public an idea of the awful sufferings of the gallant men who were engaged in the Darien exploring expedition—many of whom perished by absolute starvation. To the almost superhuman energy of the officer in command—Lieutenant Strain—is attributed the safety of those who survived.

When Strain had at length found his way through the settlements, he fortunately encountered Mr. Bennett, a tall, well-formed, manly, noble Irishman. Strain, says the account, was reduced by long starvation to one who could scarcely stand; and in his weakness he was almost overcome by the kindness of the noble Irishman, who, in his eagerness to secure recruits, had clad in such habiliments as the negro Alcade could furnish him, looking like a beggar, he approached the table where Bennett was engaged with his drawings. As Strain drew near, Mr. Bennett accosted him rather sternly, saying, "Well sir, what do you want?" The former replied, "I am Lieutenant Strain, commanding the United States exploring expedition." "My God!" exclaimed the warlike-hearted man as he caught him in his arms, and pressed him to his bosom, while the tears rolled down his cheeks; "Ah!" said he, "we had given you up long ago as lost." He ordered dinner at once; told Strain he must remain there and recruit, while he himself, though then lame, would go back for his comrades. This Strain declined. He then supplied him with provisions, brought out nearly all the clothing he had forced on Strain his poncho, turned his medicine chest and his yockets inside out, saying, "Take these to the poor men."

This was at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, and at 5 p. m., Strain was on his way back to the rescue. Bennett remained to meet the *Virago*, a British war vessel, which was hurried on board, and as his earnest representations brought forward by Lieutenant Forsyth and a company which had been sent to Strain's assistance. Having joined Strain at Yavisa, the party pushed forward to succor the perishing. The difficulties encountered were so great that when it was found that the exploring company had turned back towards the Atlantic, Strain had reason to expect that his companions would give out and fall by the wayside. Several died afterwards from the effects of their privations. The whole party were reduced to mere skeletons—there they lay, lacinated, ulcerated, frames of men, half covered with rats. Some were so changed, from emaciation, that Strain himself could not recognize them as they were stretched upon the ground, unable to get up. As a noble Irishman, jumped ashore, and almost naked skeletons, he seized each one by the hand, while tears poured like rain down his cheeks.

The reader will be glad to hear that this noble stranger received, in a separate letter from the Secretary of the Navy, the thanks of our government for his devotion and his services.

Utica Observer.

TO SPORTSMEN.—Washing your gun barrels in spirits of turpentine by dipping your gun or sponge fastened on your gun rod into the liquid, and swabbing them out three or four times, when they will be cleared from all impurities, and can be used almost instantly as the turpentine will evaporate and leave the barrels dry; even if they are a little moist it will not prevent their no danger of rust when the water is used. I am an old experienced gunner, and have practiced this for years, and found it useful. Spirits of turpentine can be procured at all country stores, and a small quantity sufficient.

Country American.

Correspondence of the Standard.

HON. BURTON CRAIGIE.

CLEVELAND CO., N. C., May 29, 1855. MESSRS. EDITORS:—On Saturday last happening to be in Shelby, where many of the people of the County had assembled to attend the general muster of Col. Love's brigade, I was very much gratified to witness the enthusiastic reception given to the Hon. Burton Craige by the patriotic citizens of Cleveland.

His old friends greeted him with a cordiality creditable to them and highly complimentary to him. The Democrats welcomed him as a public servant whom they were delighted to honor; and the republican portion of the Whig party—who scorn to be mere stock in the trade to be bartered about by the dark-lantern party like cattle at the market place—received him with expressions of their sincere regard and friendship, pledging him their support in the future against any opposition that may be resorted to bear upon him by the unfair means now so resorted to.

There were also present a few hood-winked slaves of the ubiquitous, nocturnal, treacherous, sneaking "Sam," the very sound of whose name has become nauseating to honorable politicians of all parties; and their reception of our patriotic, true-hearted, Southern statesman was little peculiar. Being but few, they strove to make up in bluster what they lacked in numbers; and although, by equivocal disclaimers, they tried hard to appear like free men, yet the palor of their cheeks, the wildish glitter of their treacherous looking eyes, and the tremors in the corner of their nether lips so clearly marked them, that it was easy to point them out as the slaves of the dark-lantern party.

Without paying any regard to the few hood-winked and dark-lantern lighters, who strove to pass current their *mock welcome*, which, however, was clearly discernible from the genuine, honest-hearted, true republican sincerity which came up to his support from every fair and honorable man, without regard to party, and from all his old Democratic friends, with most trifling exception of a very few of the *dark-lantern*, Craige's reception was flattering in the highest degree, and as encouraging as his most ardent wishes could have desired.

At 2 o'clock, Mr. Craige delivered his address, which was in all its parts, one of the happiest efforts I ever heard on any occasion of the kind. I will not do him the injustice to attempt a review of it. I may, however, remark that his exposure of the dark-lantern party, tracing their footsteps from their starting point in the hot bed of northern fanaticism, through the "gravel pits" of Salisbury and the *back shop* of a Yankee from Massachusetts, who is now squating with his *treason* to the South, among the good people of Charlotte, was so thorough and complete that the best informed among those who had already come out of the dark party, were fully convinced that such speeches would have the effect to bring down their present leaders, and to sweep away all other hiding places every one of the young Democrats who, after having been inveigled in, may still remain bound in the net.

Confidently, then, Messrs. Editors, may you assure your readers that, although it has been announced that, to "divide and conquer" the Democratic party, Col. Stowe has accepted the nomination of the dark-lantern party, that Craige, who has been plainly elected by a largely increased majority, by his open, frank, manly, honest, upright conduct, is gaining the support of ten patriotic Whigs, who scorn sneaking meanness, whenever it may appear, for every hood-winked, "gravel pit" "Yankee shop" Democrat he can possibly lose.

By the way, I may inform you that "Sam's" hiding places are well known; and that his dark deeds are not so secret as he would have us believe. He is, in fact, still willingly wearing the collar of the political slave, and I am happy to add that the number of Democrats in that unenviable condition is now exceedingly small and weakly growing "beautifully less."

At the proper time, I may send you something decidedly "rich," from which your readers will be abundantly supplied. Mr. Craige has been fighting with fire—how, in their eagerness to secure recruits, the enemy have admitted the "rodden horse" within their gates—how the *dark-lantern* has been smoked in his own den!

BUFAILO.

LINCOLN, May 28, 1855.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—If you think it worth while to inform your readers that "Sambo's" friend "Saw" has been fully exposed in this place; and that his fortifications have been so completely undermined that his walls are ready to be thrown down whenever the word is given.

To win converts to the dark party, the basest falsehoods were used to induce young republicans to go through the machinery of spurious oaths and obligations, and to make them believe that they were morally bound to continue to be the slaves of the keepers of "Sam's" conscience; and under one false pretense or another they succeeded so far as to draw into their den a score or more of the unsuspecting; but among them they took a few weak, and several who were sharp enough to appreciate the value of a spurious oath, pretending to bind them to the same sort of oaths as the dark-lantern party, and these, not having the fear of "Sam" before their eyes, have exposed the whole matter. Some withdrew at once; but others remain in the den, quietly amusing themselves with the *flatteries* and *chuckles* of "Sam's" tools, all of which are so fully reported to reliable republicans next morning; so that the friends of Mr. Craige, in this constitution, as it stands, are fully aware of every man's name, and the trick of deceiving the Democrats by themselves and keeping them out of the *darkest* hole in the den, so that they can have nothing of importance to disclose, is fully understood and counteracted. The *private* meetings of "Sam," to which, it is thought, none but the *simon pure* are admitted, are all well known; and when full developments are made "Sam's" astounded friends will be completely confounded.

The grand scheme of nominating Col. Stowe, as a sort of a "tab thrown to the whale," will prove the grandest failure of all. The riders that are now traversing the country, swearing in the *green* ones in every hole and corner, and trying to keep them from a knowledge of the action and determination of the grand council in "Sam's" private sanctuary, will soon be fully exposed to the public eye, and their labors, in many instances "Sam's" most trusted *private* Secretary is watching him the closest, with a view to expose him the more effectually.

I am informed that Mr. Craige addressed the people of Cleveland on Saturday last, and that his prospects are brighter than ever in that patriotic county.

SHADY GROVE.

HILLSBOROUGH, Orange Co., May 31, 1855.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The candidate for the "Hindoo" made his appearance here yesterday, and according to promise addressed his friends and associates. The Court House was appropriated unto his use, and at 2 o'clock, P. M., when the speaker came in, it was tolerably well thronged with an audience at least willing to hear him. But here is something singular enough: the crowd before him at the beginning of his speech, was very small, and as he went on, they gradually increased, and at the close of his address, he found himself surrounded by a large number of his friends, and according to promise addressed his friends and associates. The Court House was appropriated unto his use, and at 2 o'clock, P. M., when the speaker came in, it was tolerably well thronged with an audience at least willing to hear him. 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